

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Oct. 16, 2020

Several years ago, Circleville City Schools Superintendent Jonathan Davis came to me concerned about students who needed a different way to succeed.



Now four years old, Pickaway Pathways for Success — a partnership with the Pickaway County Educational Service Center that is housed at our Mound Street campus — is filling that need for students who otherwise might be left behind.

Seth Kellenberger has been teaching Construction Technologies since the program started and is pleased with its progress and how it is benefiting students.

Construction Technologies, similar to Pickaway-Ross' Industrial Arts program at Logan Elm, is a pipeline program designed to introduce students to careers in construction that they may pursue further at Pickaway-Ross as juniors.

"I'm glad they like (to build stuff) but they're actually starting to look at having a future," Seth said. "Pathways as a whole is helping students who could have otherwise been written off."

Circleville's Jonathan Davis agreed.

"Our commitment to this important initiative has proven to be the right investment," he said, crediting much of the success to the collaborative efforts of Pickaway County's school district administrators.

"We have seen a high percentage of students get back on the right track and/or graduate because of Pathways. Each year the team has made positive adjustments to the program to serve more students and my belief is that this program will eventually be a model across the state."

Trent Patterson, Pathways director, said the partnerships that have developed with the community "have made the program stronger and created more opportunities for our students."

Seth said a highlight for him is getting his students active in community projects, such as building a wheelchair ramp for the county's Board of Developmental Disabilities last year. This week, students partnered with the Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce making wooden supports



TOP: Christian cuts a piece of wood to make the scarecrow support. MIDDLE: Jaden attaches the wooden pieces as Mr. Kellenberger supervises. BOTTOM: Max and Nash load the supports to go to the chamber office.

for the chamber's Build Your Own Scarecrow kits that will be available at Circleville Sunrise Rotary's Taste of Pumpkin Show Saturday.

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